

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 01360 01 OF 02 070835Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 ABF-01 PER-01 OC-06

CCO-00 /025 W

-----070848Z 097800 /11

R 070500Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 912

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SANA 1360

FOR NEA/EX AND A/SY/OPS; KARACHI FOR RSS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AFSP,ASEC, YE

SUBJECT: REALLOCATION OF SECURITY POSITIONS

REFERENCE: STATE 060581

BEGIN SUMMARY: REFTEL LOSS OF THE TWO PROPOSED SY POSITIONS WILL RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE AND SERIOUS DOWN-GRADING OF THE ON-GOING SECURITY PROGRAM AT POST, WHICH

HAS ALMOST 100 US EMPLOYEES AT STATE, USIS, DAO, PC AND AID. IT WILL ALSO CAUSE SERIOUS DISLOCATIONS IN ADMIN SECTION AND STRAIN SECRETARIAL RESOURCES AT POST. ON BASIS OUR BELIEF THAT THREAT IN SANA HAS DIMINISHED IN

PAST TWO YEARS, AND MSG PROGRAM PLUS VARIETY OF TECHNICAL AND PHYSICAL SECURITY PROGRAMS WILL REAMIN, WE POST NO OBJECTION TO LOSS OF RSO. HOWEVER, WE NEED EITHER TO KEEP SY SECRETARY OR CONVERT SLOT FOR ADMIN SECRETARY (NOW FOREIGN NATIONAL) TO US INCUMBENT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 SANA 01360 01 OF 02 070835Z

1. POST BELIEVES THAT GROWING STABILITY AND STRENGTH OF YARG HAS GREATLY IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CONSERVATIVE SAUDI ARABIA TO NORTH AND RADICAL PDRY TO SOUTH HAVE DIMINISHED THREAT TO EMBASSY IN SANA. THREAT HAS ALSO BEEN DIMINISHED BY EXCELLENT WORK WHICH INCUMBENT RSO HAS DONE IN LAST TWO YEARS TO SET UP NUMEROUS SECURITY PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL SAFE-

GUARDS. THESE INCLUDE:

- A. PROVIDING AMBASSADOR WITH EXCELLENT BODYGUARD PROGRAM, INCLUDING RECRUITING, CONTINUAL TRAINING, EQUIPPING AND PROFESSIONAL/OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE.
- B. A WORKING SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES CONTINUAL COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR, INCLUDING RECRUITING, TRAINING, ETC. OF SECURITY DRIVERS.
- C. A PROPER FSL SECURITY INVESTIGATIVE (AND UPDATE) SYSTEM FOR STATE-DOD-USAID-USIS-PC APPLICANTS AND INCUMBENTS, PER DEPT POLICY.
- D. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GUARD SERVICE FOR OFFICIAL PREMISES, INCLUDING BOTH YARG SECURITY AND CIVILIAN WATCHMAN SERVICE. AS CONTRACTOR AND/OR YARG SUPPORT TO THESE EFFORTS IS NON-EXISTENT, RUNNING OF THIS PROJECT OFTEN INVOLVES RECRUITMENT, PERSONNEL DIRECTION AND HOST OF OTHER TASKS.
- E. MSG DETACHMENT, INCLUDING TRAINING, OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT, POLICY DIRECTION, ETC.
- F. AN ON-GOING PHYSICAL SECURITY PROGRAM FOR THE CHANCERY, WHICH HAS INCLUDED CONTINUAL UPGRADES AND CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTIVE NATURE.
- G. AN AWARENESS OF SECURITY MATTERS FOR ALL USG EMPLOYEES, THROUGH THE VIOLATION, BRIEFING, DEFENSIVE PLANNING-ORIENTATION, AND OTHER PROGRAMS.
- H. WORTH NOTING THAT IN YEMEN, TO SUCCEED IN ALL THIS, THE RSO HAS HAD TO EXERT CONTINUAL, CLOSE, PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF MANY ELEMENTS OF THESE PROGRAMS. EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT, WITHOUT SUCH SUPERVISION, PROGRAMS DEPENDING ON YEMENI PER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANA 01360 01 OF 02 070835Z

SONNEL CAN FALL APART OVERNIGHT.

2. THREAT MAY HAVE DIMINISHED IN PAST TWO YEARS AS RESULT OF FORTUNATE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND US SECURITY EFFORTS NOTED ABOVE, BUT IT HAS BY NO MEANS EVAPORATED. POST WANTS VERY MUCH TO MAINTAIN SECURITY PROGRAM AT HIGH LEVEL AFTER DEPARTURE OF RSO. YEMEN REMAINS LAND IN WHICH EVERYONE IS HABITUALLY ARMED AND VIOLENCE IS NOT UNCOMMON. PDRY REMAINS SEAT OF TERRORIST TRAINING AND OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECURITY PRACTICES -- PARTICULARLY ENTRY AND EXIT OF COUNTRY -- ARE SLACK.

3. HOWEVER, EVEN WITH MSG TO TAKE UP SOME OF SLACK, DEPARTURE OF RSO IS GOING TO THROW HEAVY NEW BURDEN ON POST ADMIN OFFICER. IN SANA, THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. ADMIN SECTION SUPPORTED 21 AMERICANS IN SANA IN JUNE 1975. BY THIS FALL IT WILL SUPPORT 30 (ASSUMING WE LOSE BOTH RSO AND HIS SECRETARY). THAT'S ALMOST FIFTY

PERCENT INCREASE. LOCAL STAFF DOESN'T HELP MUCH TO
FILL THE GAP. STAFF REFLECTS POOR EDUCATION, INEX-
PERIENCE OF YEMEN AS WHOLE. LOWWAGE SCALE CONTRIBUTES
TO HIGH TURNOVER.

4. THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ALREADY IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR:

A. ALL PERSONNEL WORK FOR THE EMBASSY (STATE, USIS,
PEACE CORPS, DAO), WHICH INCLUDES KEEPING TRACK OF
PERIODIC STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS, INTERVIEWING THE
MYRIAD PERSONS WHO ARE APPLYING FOR THE MANY VACANT
POSITIONS, PREPARING DS 1032'S (RECENTLY MOSTLY
RESIGNATIONS), AND RESPONDING TO THE MANY QUESTIONS
RECEIVED FROM AMERICAN PERSONNEL THAT CAN ONLY BE
ANSWERED AFTER STUDYING THE REGULATIONS.

B. SUPERVISION OF THE B&F LOCAL STAFF WHICH PRESENTLY
CONSISTS OF ONE HIGHLY TRAINED FSLE, ONE TRAINEE WITH
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PAGE 04 SANA 01360 01 OF 02 070835Z

NINETY DAYS EXPERIENCE, AND ONE PERSON WHO IS PRESENT-
LY ON TRIAL AND WHO HAS WORKED ONLY THREE WEEKS (ONE
OTHER TRAINEE RESIGNED EFFECTIVE 16 MARCH). HE IS
ALSO THE CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR ALL AGENCIES ECCEPT
USAID. FURTHER HE MUST FOLLOW THE DAY-TO-DAY CASH
OPERATION IN A COUNTRY WHERE CASH IS USUALLY DEMANDED
AND CHECKS ARE LOOKED ON WITH MUCH SUSPICION.
C. SUPERVISE AND ASSIST THE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER
WHO, ALTHOUGH HIGHLY CAPABLE, IS SERVING HIS FIRST
TOUR AND HAS MANY PROCEDURAL, REGUALTION-RELATED, AND
OTHER QUESTIONS THAT THE ADMIN OFFICER GETS INVOLVED
IN.

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PAGE 01 SANA 01360 02 OF 02 070825Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 ABF-01 PER-01 OC-06
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-----070848Z 097658 /11

R 070500Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 913
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SSECTION 2 OF 2 SANA 1360

D. ADVISES, ASSISTS, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF THE POST
MEDICAL OFFICER, ACTS AS SUCH FOR THE ENTIRE MISSION.
(IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS THE MISSION HAD TWO MEDEVACS.)

5. FURTHER, ON TOP OF THE INTERNAL MATTERS MENTIONED
ABOVE, THE ADMIN OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAISON WITH
THE YEMEN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE REQUEST (ALWAYS
A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE) FOR RESIDENT PER-
MITS AND EXIT VISAS FOR ALL RPT ALL OFFICIAL AMERICANS
ASSIGNED TO YEMEN. ALSO, IN THE CASE OF DISPUTED RENT
CONTRACTS THE ADMIN OFFICE MUST PREPARE THE OFFICIAL
NOTE TO THE YEMEN GOVERNMENT, FOLLOW UP WITH MANY TIMES
PERSONAL TRIPS TO THE MINISTRY (AT THEIR REQUEST).
ALSO THE UNENDING LABOR DISPUTES EAT UP MORE OF THE
ALREADY LIMITED TIME.

6. BOTTOM LINE IS THAT, WITH ADMIN SECTION AMERICANS
OVERWORKED AND UNDER PRESSURE, POST WILL HAVE TO DROP
OR REDUCE SOME EXISTING SY PROGRAMS IF RSO AND
SECRETARY DEPART.

7. DEPARTURE POSES ANOTHER PROBLEM FOR POST. SY
SECRETARY HAD BEEN USED IN C AND R AND DID MUCH
PERSONNEL WORK. SHE PICKED UP EXTRA CLASSIFIED --
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PAGE 02 SANA 01360 02 OF 02 070825Z

AND UNCLASSIFIED -- TYPING FROM OTHER TWO AMERICAN
SECRETARIES AT POST, WHO WOULD (IN HER ABSENCE) HAVE
TO SERVE AMBASSADOR, DCM, ECONOMIC OFFICER, COMMERCIAL
OFFICER, ADMIN OFFICER. IF ONE OF REMAINING TWO
AMERICAN SECRETARIES WERE ABSENT OR ILL, BURDEN WOULD
BE MUCH TOO GREAT. ADMIN OFFICER PRESENTLY HAS SLOT
FOR SECRETARY, BUT NOT FOR AMERICAN INCUMBENT. LAST
YEAR, THEREFORE, HE HAD VACANCY OF FOUR MONTHS BECAUSE
THERE WERE NO APPLICANTS IN YEMEN WHO COULD READ,
WRITE, SPEAK, TYPE ENGLISH AND WOULD ACCEPT OUR
SALARY. PRESENT (DUTCH) INCUMBENT IS GOOD, BUT
LEAVING MINUTE HER HUSBAND FINISHES HIS JOB IN YEMEN.

8. THEREFORE, FOR BOTH PRESSING SY AND ADMIN REASONS,
THE EMBASSY IS SORELY IN NEED OF AN AMERICAN SECRETARY,
A PERSON WHO WILL BE ON BOARD FOR A SPECIFIC LENGTH
OF TIME, A POSITION THAT CAN BE COUNTED ON AS BEING
FILLED, AND NOT THE PRESENT TENUOUS ARRANGEMENT THAT

COULD FALL APART AT ANY TIME.

9. POST PROPOSES THAT THE BUREAU LEAVE INCUMBENT OF POSITION 50-015 (MS. SHARON RENNO), WHICH SHOWS AS THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, ON BOARD. THEN UPON THE ARRIVAL OF MS. RANDALL TO FILL POSITION 00-002 (ETA MAY 77) MS. RENNO WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK FULL-TIME WITH BOTH THE RSO AND THE ADMIN OFFICER WHICH WOULD MAKE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION WHEN THE RSO'S POSITION IS VACATED. IN THIS MANNER MOST OF THE MINIMAL NEEDS OF THE NEW ADMIN/POST SECURITY/ PERSONNEL/B&F OFFICER COULD BE MET.

10. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. WE HAVE FOR MOMENT HAD MS RANDALL'S HHE HELD IN INDIA RATHER THAN EMBARKED ON SHIP FOR YEMEN.
SCOTES

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